

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 04/08/07
HB 48

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
INFORMATION SHEET**

HOUSE BILL NO. 48

EXTEND THE CURRENT TUITION WAIVER PROVISIONS ON MONTANA COLLEGES, FOR NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION BENEFIT PROGRAM, FROM 2009 TO 2011.

INTENT

Section 20-25-421 (Temporary) (Charges for tuition – waivers), MCA, provides that the Montana Board of Regents may:

"Waive tuition for up to 5, 000 credits each academic year in accordance with the Montana national guard education benefit program ..."

The provisions of Section 20-25-421 (Temporary), MCA, terminate on June 30, 2009. After this date, MT national guardsmen tuition waiver eligibility falls into a lower 2d tier priority group. The Dept. of Military Affairs has been working with the MT Board of Regents to develop a framework for possible future implementation of a tuition waiver program for eligible MT national guardsmen. The Dept. of Military Affairs believes that the two entities need additional time to work on such a tuition waiver program under 20-25-421 (Temporary), MCA. To this end, HB 48 will extend the sunset provision of Section 20-25-421 (Temporary), MCA, from June 30, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

CONCLUSION

HB 48 will extend the tuition waiver provisions of Section 20-25-421 (Temporary)(Charges for tuition – waivers), MCA, from June 30, 2009 to June 30, 2011, as they pertain to discretionary college tuition waivers for MT national guardsmen. The extension of Section 20-25-421 (Temporary), MCA, will provide the Dept. of Military Affairs and the MT Board of Regents with additional time to work together in an effort to possibly provide tuition waivers for MT national guardsmen at Montana colleges. If Section 20-25-421 (Temporary), MCA, is allowed to sunset, MT national guardsmen will be placed in a lower priority group (for purposes of tuition waiver eligibility).

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